

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS PROJECT BUILDING COMMITTEE

November 6, 2014

Town Hall – Lower Level Conference Room L101

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order –the meeting was called to order at 5:18 PM by Mr. Baron.
- II. Roll Call – Members present: Rodney Mortensen, Alan Bongiovanni, Whit Przech, Jane Murphy and Jim Marocchini. Others present: Members of the public; Stephen Woods, Mayor; Dave Nagel, Newington Town Council; John Salomone, Town Manager; Dave Langdon, Director of Facilities Management; and Jeff Baron, Director of Administrative Services.
- III. Charge of the Committee – Mr. Baron read the charge of the Committee from Town Council resolution 2014-99 and distributed the Ordinance governing Project Building Committees.
- IV. Election of Officers – Mr. Mortensen made a motion to nominate Alan Bongiovanni as Chairperson. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Marocchini. There were no other nominations. The motion passed by a vote of 5 YES to 0 NO. Mr. Bongiovanni chaired the meeting from that point forward.
- V. Public Participation – Patty Foley, 51 Crownridge. She asked to have the Committee hold their meetings later in the evening. She also asked if documents would be made available to the public and be posted on the Town's website.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. She welcomed the members to the new Committee. Seven years ago Rodney Mortensen gave the public an F for participation. She became fascinated with how government works. She has been coming to Project Building Committee meetings the past two years. She asked questions and urged others to attend. She presented a synopsis of her observations of the previous Committee. She hopes that those who were critical will show up to meetings. She thanked those who volunteered. She would also like to have the meetings later in the evening.

Clarke Castelle, 167 Connecticut Avenue. As the former Building Committee Chairperson, he was glad to be back sitting with the public. He thanked the

residents and Town Council members who agreed to serve on the Committee. He wished them all the best of luck. He expressed a willingness to help if he could. He stated he was optimistic.

- VI. Focus Groups – Mr. Baron notified the Committee of the three upcoming focus group meetings, designed to collect fresh ideas about the project. He presented a status report prepared by Assistant to the Town Manager Jaime Trevethan. The facilitator will be tasked with keeping the each group focused on matters pertaining to the Town Hall and the project. A report will be prepared at the conclusion of the sessions and it will be presented to the Project Building Committee. The Committee can reasonably expect to receive that report by the end of the month.

- VII. Any Other Business Pertinent to the Committee – Mr. Bongiovanni requested a walk through of Town Hall to observe the current conditions and to see what the problems are. In addition he requested 8-1/2 x 11 diagrams showing the current office locations, and also previous studies of the building. Mr. Mortensen stated his desire to include all factions, people and departments so that no one is excluded from consideration. The Committee should try to be as inclusive as possible. There are lots of issues going on, Parks and Recreation, the Library, etc. Mr. Bongiovanni noted that the previous effort was a totally different project. Mayor Woods offered advice regarding the location. The Committee was not restricted as to the location for the project, but he thinks the Committee needs to look at the current site. Straightening Garfield Street should also be off limits. The land next to the library was purchased by the library board and discussions have begun with the library about that lot. The Mayor also suggested the Committee have milestones, dates to achieve particular targets. If the Committee prefers to have 5:30 meetings, it could have work sessions at that time followed by 7:30 meetings for the public to receive information. Mr. Bongiovanni noted that the first task is to collect data. The Mayor told the Committee that if it needed direction from the Town Council it should ask for it. The Committee agreed to hold their next meeting on November 20th. The Town Hall walk through will begin at 5:30 PM and the business meeting will begin at 6:30 PM at the conclusion of the walk through.

- VIII. Public Participation – Natalie Harbison, 319 Lloyd Street. She wished the Committee good luck. A number of the residents of the Town have young children and have difficulty attending when there are earlier meeting times. She hopes that the Committee can balance the times for the meetings. She wants to know what is going on. She encouraged the Committee not to reinvent the wheel. The earlier project had some good ideas.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. She asked members to introduce themselves so the public can put names to faces. She asked the Committee not to use jargon

and to explain to the general public what members mean when they are talking. She offered her notes from the past two years. In the past she received what information she has asked for.

Dominic Pane, 638 Church Street. He offered congratulations to the Building Committee and asked if the walk through of Town Hall would be open to the public.

- IX. Response to Public Participation – The members of the Committee introduced themselves and briefly provided their individual backgrounds. Extra copies of documents will be made for the public that are presented at each meeting. The walk through of the Town Hall is part of the public meeting. Mr. Mortensen observed that a debt of gratitude was owed to the previous Project Building Committee members.
- X. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Baron

Jeff Baron
Director of Administrative Services